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MEMORIAL WINDOW TO STONEWALL JACKSON IN VIRGINIA NEGRO CHURCH

In Roanoke, Va., there is, in the leading colored church of the city, the Fifth Avenue Presbyterian church, a memorial window to Stonewall Jackson which was placed through the efforts of Rev. L. L. Downing, pastor of the church for twenty-five years who was a native of Lexington, Va. The story of the window, and the man who was the inspiration of the memorial, was brought the One-Minute page yesterday by E. S. Pollard, who while in Roanoke Times. This is the story, should be added by U. D. C. historians to their history books:

"Few monuments erected to commemorate the lives and deeds of heroes have the significance and interest for the people of this community and throughout the South as the 'Stonewall' Jackson memorial window in the Fifth Avenue Presbyterian church, colored, of this city, placed there in 1906, by the Rev. L. L. Downing, pastor of the church for the past twenty-five years, who was assisted in the work by the church officers.

"Many of the older residents of Roanoke recall the widespread interest that was awakened and the newspaper comment that was excited when the window was installed and unveiled as a result of the splendid spirit and untiring efforts on the part of the colored minister.

Born in Lexington

Dr. Downing was born in Lexington only a few months before the emancipation proclamation, where he spent his childhood. His parents had been pupils in the Sunday school for colored people which Jackson taught in the Lexington Presbyterian church during the years that he served as professor at the Virginia Military Institute. As a boy, Dr. Downing heard the praises of the great general from the lips of the people, both white and colored, throughout the community. The little colored boy much impressed with the stories of the life and work of the great soldier, and teacher and he came to regard

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SANTUC

Mr. Roy Kay and sister Miss Louise, spent Tuesday at Mr. Henry Cochran's.

Mrs. E. J. Botts spent the week-end in Abbeville with Mrs. M. S. Langford.

Mr. John Morrison of Columbia spent Friday with his father, Mr. W. E. Morrison.

Mr. and Mrs. Mack Wright spent Tuesday with Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Richardson.

Mr. and Mrs. Claude Kay and children spent Saturday with Mr. M. B. Kay and family.

Mr. and Mrs. Mason Wright and baby and Miss Thelma Burnette spent Sunday with Mrs. M. S. Langford.

Mr. George Morrison joined a number of his friends Saturday and

went fishing at Turkey Hill.

Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Kay and children spent Sunday at Mr. M. B. Kay's.

Mrs. W. F. Kay spent a few days this week with her mother.

Miss Louise Kay spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. M. D. Wright.

Miss Annie Kay spent Tuesday afternoon with Miss Ruby Richardson.

Mr. and Mrs. John Morrison and Miss Rosa Lee Bass of Columbia are visiting relatives here for a few days.

Mr. and Mrs. John Morrison and Miss Lila Morrison and Mr. James Haddon spent Thursday in Due West.

Master Clarence Morrison spent a few days in Hodges this week with his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. B. S. Robertson.

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him as one of the greatest men in history as well as one of the best friends his race ever had. He often visited Jackson's grave in the Lexington cemetery and continually lamented the fact that the hero's resting place was marked only by a simple stone.

Wanted to Honor Jackson

He was filled with a desire to erect a monument more worthy of the illustrious general who had so nobly befriended the colored people of his town. The desire never left him and the determination to express in some way his personal appreciation and gratitude was rekindled when as a student at Lincoln university one day he read a book on Jackson's life an account of the following incident:

During the same week that Jackson was given the name of "Stonewall" by General Lee at the first battle of Manassas, it became known in Lexington that Dr. William S. White, then pastor of the Lexington Presbyterian church, and received a letter from the general whose praises were being sung by the whole countryside. Expecting to hear some of the details of the great battle and on account of how Jackson and his men had managed to make the wonderful stand which had won them imperishable fame, his friends crowded in to learn the letter's contents. In spite of their disappointment at not hearing the hero's own story of the conflict, their admiration for the man was still greater when it was found that he had modestly neglected to mention the battle, and the most important matter referred to in the letter was a check which the writer had enclosed for the expenses of his river and rest in the shade of the Sunday school for colored children that he had so long neglected sending it.

Idea of Window Came to Him

After completing his university course and receiving his ordination as a Presbyterian minister, Dr. Downing again visited the Lexington cemetery and looked with approval on the splendid monument which had been erected at Jackson's grave. His desire to make some personal expression of his admiration for the noble Southerner was in no way dampened, however, and when he became pastor of the Roanoke church, the idea of a "Stonewall" Jackson memorial window came to him and later with the assistance of the officers of his church he was able to realize his dream when the beautiful window was placed in the church and unveiled with an appropriate dedication service in 1906.

"Uncle" Jeff Shields

The chief address on that occasion was made by "Uncle" Jeff Shields, General Jackson's body-guard during the war. Other speakers were the late Col. S. S. Brooks, the late Henry Trout, E. W. Speed and several other prominent citizens of Roanoke. The Confederate veterans of the city attended the exercises in a body.

As a result of an Associate Press dispatch in regard to the event sent to many different newspapers, Dr. Downing received letters from many parts of America and several from England commending him for his appropriate and beautiful tribute to the gallant Confederate soldier.

The window is the central and largest of a group of three windows which occupy the most prominent position in the street extension of the church. Dr. Downing himself was the designer, having drawn a pen sketch of the window from which the artist worked out the picture.

The Picture

The conception of the picture is literally based on the last words of that gallant Confederate soldier and Christian hero. Thomas Jonathan Jackson: "Let us cross over the river and rest in the shade of the trees." The scene is one of the most beautiful in the famous Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. In the background appear the Blue Ridge Mountains, out of which flows a meandering stream, widening as it courses its way toward the sea. On the left bank, a short space from the gently rising foothills, is seen a typical Virginia log cabin, in the door of which stands the farmer's wife with milk and delicacies for the sick, typical of the hospitality for which every true Virginian is known. Near the cabin are tents; guns are stacked; soldiers are on

the inside some playing—all are weeping. Before another tent officers are seen in consultation; sentinels are solemnly measuring their charge from post to post.

There is officer's tent with the flaps closed, but hanging on the outside is the famous "white signal." Platoons are seen as they vigilantly scan the roads, fields and hillsides. Across the river a profusion of shade trees—the maple, the beech, and the oak—whose foliage invites the weary-worn traveler and soldier to a refreshing repose, emblematic of that blissful "rest to the people of God."

The "Stonewall" Jackson memorial is supported by two windows very beautiful in design each of which is also a memorial.

Looking from the pulpit the window on the right is a memorial to Col. J. T. Preston for years the pastor's Sunday school superintendent at Lexington, Va., the one on the left is to the memory of Dr. and Mrs. James I. Brownson, of Washington, Pa., by whose fervent prayers, counsel and financial aid the pastor was assisted through college.—Charlotte Observer.

No President of the United States was ever born in May or June.

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